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iPAD: WHAT'S NEW, AND WHAT IT COSTS {page 07}

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NEW YORK
Thursday, March 8, 2012

GETTY IMAGES

Batali to fork over $5.25M

- Celeb chef agrees to settle suit filed by servers who say he illegally kept a portion of their tips
- Case serves as a caution to other NYC restaurant owners, warns lawyer {page 02}

▶ Mario Batali and his business partner Joseph Bastianich have agreed to pay a record settlement to wait staff who say they were stiffed out of tips.

Metropolitik

What's Obama up to as GOP self-destructs?

- President busy justifying assassinations of US citizens
- What would left had said if it was Bush in charge? {page 06}

Magazines, take pregnant pause

Even our pregnant gossip columnist thinks nude preggos are so 1991 {page 08}

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Mario Batali agrees to multimillion-dollar settlement

The news that Mario Batali agreed to fork over $5.25 million to his servers after being sued for alleged tip skimming is serving as a cautionary tale to some of the city's biggest restaurant owners.

The case was filed in 2010 by a waitress at Batali's famed West Village spot Babbo. In the filing, she and others accused Batali of improperly deducting up to 5 percent of total wine sales at the end of each night from the tip pool. She says the restaurant pocketed the cash instead of giving it back to employees.

Batali and his business partner agreed to settle, according to court papers yesterday.

Many restaurants in the city pool tips, said James DiPasquale, an attorney who represents restaurants and nightclubs, but he cautioned that the key is to keep careful records — even without a lawsuit, restaurants can be penalized by the Department of Labor.

Restaurants "have been pretty heavily targeted with these very similar wage and tips lawsuits," DiPasquale said. "Everyone's getting targeted."

Even without suing, employees can formally complain about pay, he said.

"This is a reminder for those restaurant owners that own five, six, seven restaurants," he said. "They have to be careful, because even in the absence of a lawsuit, any employee that files a claim with the Department of Labor, that's when things can get scary." METRO/AB

In the news

NYPD sergeant grilled over alleged UES hooker ring

The NYPD's Internal Affairs Unit grilled an NYPD sergeant for possible involvement in the high-class Upper East Side sex ring allegedly run by Anna Gristina. The sergeant was questioned yesterday because he had been spotted on several occasions hanging out by the East 78th Street pad from which she is accused of running the business. METRO/CB

In the news

'GCB' boycott

Queens Councilman Peter Vallone is calling for a boycott of ABC's new show "GCB," saying the title of the show is "offensive to Christians everywhere." "GCB," which stars Kristin Chenoweth, was named after the book titled "Good Christian B—es." ABC says the show's initials actually stand for "Good Christian Belles." METRO/CB

▶ Brooks

Aide indicted in alleged molestation

A Brooklyn teacher's aide was indicted yesterday for allegedly molesting a child, and the incident was reportedly caught on video. Taleek Brooks, a former employee at PS 243, was charged with sexual exploitation. Prosecutors say FBI agents found he had more than 1,000 photos of children younger than 10 in sexually explicit poses. Several other teachers have since been accused of sexual abuse. METRO/AB

Woman assaulted in Brookyn store

A woman was raped in her Brooklyn store Tuesday, according to the police. Two men in their 20s went into the car-leasing business and pushed the victim, 60, into a back room and then assaulted her, according to the New York Post. They also removed files and cut a wire to a surveillance camera. The assault happened at around 9:50 in the morning, the newspaper reported. METRO/AB

Brooklyn DA investigates baby death from herpes

- Baby reportedly contracted herpes after Orthodox religious tradition
- Not the first time an infant has gotten sick or died after a circumcision

ISTOCK PHOTO

The Brooklyn district attorney is investigating the death of a 2-week-old baby boy following a complication with his circumcision.

The district attorney's office confirmed yesterday that they are looking into the Sept. 28 death of the infant, who died at Maimonides Hospital after he reportedly contracted the herpes virus during an ultra-Orthodox Jewish bris.

According to the medical examiner, the baby died of Type 1 herpes virus, which is oral herpes that causes sores around the mouth and lips.

A bris is a Jewish ceremony where a baby boy is circumcised. In an Orthodox tradition that city officials said is uncommon, a rabbi or "mohel" draws blood from the circumcised penis with his mouth. The custom is known as "metzitzah b'peh," or "suction by mouth."

The city health department cites herpes as a risk and advises against the ceremony.

The family of the baby who passed away, however, is not cooperating with authorities, according to the Daily News.

This is not the first time a baby has contracted herpes during a circumcision.

In 2004, a baby died after a circumcision, and three cases were connected to one rabbi. The Department of Health commissioner at the time, Thomas Frieden, issued a letter to parents in 2005 warning them of the cases and the risk.

"There is no reasonable doubt that the practice of metzitzah b'peh has infected several infants in New York City with the herpes virus," Frieden wrote.

At the time, Frieden said, doctors and others in the Jewish community suggested the department ban the practice, but they instead decided to educate parents with a website focused on the risks.

The virus, while not fatal to adults, can cause babies to become seriously ill, suffer brain damage or die, according to officials with the Department of Health.

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Health concerns

The health department advises against metzitzah b'peh and recommends that parents check with their mohel to find out whether they practice it.

The health department documented several cases of herpes infections, one of a baby that died, and another that suffered brain damage.

"Oral herpes spreads easily through saliva, especially when saliva touches a cut or break in the skin, such as during metzitzah b'peh," the health department says on its website. "Most people with oral herpes don't know they are infected and don't have symptoms." METRO/AB

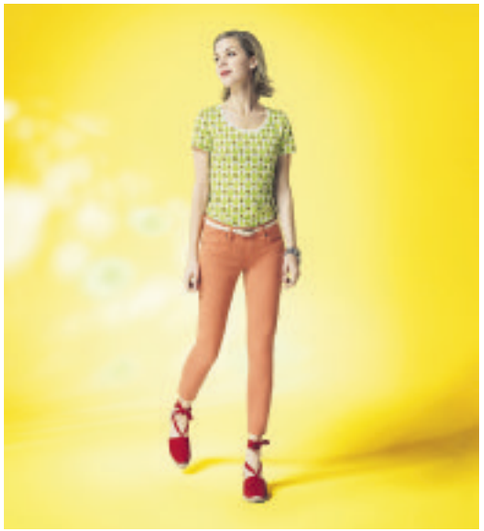
Bloomberg expresses concerns

"Religious liberty simply does not extend to injuring others or putting children at risk," Bloomberg told reporters at an unrelated press conference Tuesday. "So we'll continue working to prevent more baby boys from suffering these tragic fates." METRO/AB

Previous problems

As far back as 1998, the city investigated two cases of herpes, both associated with a mohel who performed the practice.

In 2004, a baby died after a circumcision that was performed by a Rockland County rabbi, and three more cases were connected to another rabbi. METRO/AB



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DA announces real estate scam

A 36-year-old man was charged with a hate crime after allegedly illegally getting mortgage money from an 81-year-old victim's home.

Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes said yesterday that 12 people were arrested in seven different cases, all involving real estate scams.

The individuals are accused of engaging in mortgage and real estate fraud, according to the district attorney's office.

The defendant charged with a hate crime allegedly secured nearly $350,000 in proceeds from a reverse mortgage on an 81-year-old victim's home.

Another defendant is accused of stealing vacant properties from the estates of dead owners. METRO/AB

"Particularly troubling is the use of so-called 'reverse mortgages' ... to steal the equity ... belonging to elderly victims."
BROOKLYN DISTRICT ATTORNEY CHARLES HYNES

GETTY IMAGES

▶ City Council Speaker Chris Quinn said changes need to be made to the restaurant letter grades.

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Even A-grade restaurants blast ratings

Council survey shows 66% think system 'poor' Owners call grading inconsistent, confusing Council speaker says system needs overhaul

Even restaurateurs making A grades loathe New York City's controversial letter-grading system, Council Speaker Christine Quinn revealed yesterday.

In a new Council survey of nearly 1,300 restaurants, 66 percent rated the city's letter grading as "poor" — and 67 percent of those surveyed had received A's.

The restaurants ranged from delis and bakeries to fine dining establishments, Quinn said.

"Clearly it's not just restaurants that are breaking the law that have concerns about the system," Quinn said.

Many restaurant owners told her that the system was inconsistent and arbitrary, with inspectors enforcing different standards.

For example, Scott Rosenberg, who co-owns Sushi Yasuda, which has an A grade, said on one inspection, a health department inspector told him he could keep rice sitting out, as long as he kept track of how long. Yet on another day, a second inspector told him never to keep rice out.

Quinn said she suspected that the system may be to generate revenue for the city, as even eateries that receive A's are hit with an increasing number of food safety violations.

Of the restaurant owners, 68 percent said the grades increased their costs and complained about being ticketed for minor violations, such as having open doors.

Quinn suggested that the Department of Health have regular summits with restaurant owners, or even take small steps like not wearing jackets with Health Department logos on them, which she said scares customers.

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'They want to catch you'

Scott Rosenberg, co-owner of Sushi Yasuda near Grand Central Station, said that health inspectors constantly tell him different things.

"The process by and large has been inconsistent," he said, recalling a time when an inspector took $10,000 worth of tuna, dumped it in the garbage and poured bleach over it because it was prepared by bare hands.

Herb Wetanson, whose businesses include Dallas BBQ, said the inspectors do not seem to want to work with businesses, instead ticketing them for minor infractions — Wetanson said he was slapped with a violation for having a bit of dust on top of an ice machine.

"They come and they catch you," he said. "They want to catch you."

The ups, downs of warm winter

Flowers are blooming, but balmy temps may mean a buggy summer

GOT AN OPINION?
LETTERS@METRO.US

Flowers are blooming. Birds are chirping. There's no snow or ice anywhere. With a high of 65 degrees expected today, it feels a lot more like May than March in Manhattan.

But some New York City naturalists warn that an unusually warm winter isn't always good news.

As today's weather attests, winter in New York City this year was not much of a winter at all. In fact, Central Park had its warmest February on record, with temperatures averaging 40.9 degrees. Meanwhile, there have been just 7.4 inches of snowfall this winter, compared to 61.9 inches a year ago, according to the National Weather Service.

Some flowers — including daffodils, crocuses, snow drops, winter jasmine and Japanese flowering apricots — have taken advantage of these conditions to bloom up to a month earlier than usual.

"They feel that winter is over, spring is here, bring on summer," said Todd Forrest, vice president for horticulture and living collections at the New York Botanical Garden.

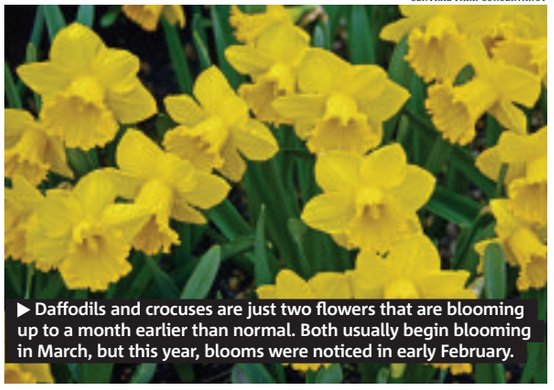
Daffodils and crocuses usually begin flowering in March, but this winter their blooms appeared in early February, according to Doug Blonsky, president of the Central Park Conservancy. But inordinately early blossoms are often susceptible to damage from late frosts, Forrest warned.

In other bad news, this may also be a banner year for mites, scale insects and other garden pests, whose populations are normally kept partially in check by winter cold spells. And since the ground never really froze, squirrels have been having a field day eating tulip bulbs, Forrest said.

"Those of us attached to our native wildlife and native plants do prefer our winters to be more normal," he said.

JESSE GREENSPAN
letters@metro.us

CENTRAL PARK CONSERVANCY



▶ Daffodils and crocuses are just two flowers that are blooming up to a month earlier than normal. Both usually begin blooming in March, but this year, blooms were noticed in early February.

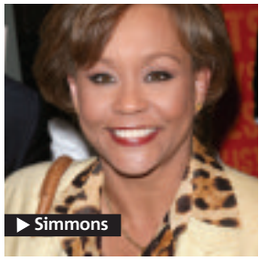
Warm temps not good for all

NEW YORK. A warm winter is not good news for all insects, such as those that use snow as an insulating barrier during hibernation. But others may be able to access new food sources this spring, much to the chagrin of the city's gardeners.

"In normal cold winters, the insects may not emerge early enough … to begin feeding on tender plant parts," Lou Sorkin, a member of the New York Entomological Society, said in an e-mail. "A little later in the season, when insects normally emerge, the parts are tough and too difficult to chew or penetrate."

JESSE GREENSPAN

Anchor to be let go from Channel 4



▶ Simmons

NEW YORK. This may deserve a "What the f—" reaction: Sue Simmons was let go from Channel 4, according to a report in the Post yesterday.

The three-decade anchor, who has won four Emmy awards, will be on air at her usual 11 p.m. broadcast until June. Simmons has been anchoring the 11 p.m. show since January, after she was bumped from the 6 p.m. slot.

Her co-host Chuck Scarborough's contract was reportedly renewed for another three years.

Simmons is known for an infamous on-air cursing incident, in which she said "What the f— are you doing?" to an unknown person off camera in 2008. She later issued an apology on air. **METRO/AB**

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We can trust the next guy, right?

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BRAYDEN SIMMS

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For complaints, suggestions and digital attaboys, e-mail us at brayden.simms@metro.us.

As this week's Super Tuesday results promise to further extend the barroom brawl that has become of the GOP nominating process, we thought we'd take some time to discuss a figure often overlooked in all the fevered angling to beat President Obama: President Obama. Mr. Obama has been without a doubt the No. 1 beneficiary of the Republican Party's self-cannibalization in this year's nasty and drawn-out primary season. So as other outlets focus on what this week's election results mean for GOP prospects in November — here's a hint: Romney will win the nomination, whether voters like it or not — we're going to address what the president has been doing with his time while the rest of us have been off following the minutia of Newt Gingrich's absurd moon colonization fantasies.

While the Republican candidates battle each other over the dubious distinction of most likely to bomb Iran back to the Stone Age, and as they relentlessly — and, if we must say, factlessly — attack the president over alleged weaknesses in foreign policy, they ignore how the Obama administration has been busy radically rewriting constitutional powers of the executive.

CHRIS MADDALONI/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Eric Holder wants you to trust President Obama. But what about the next guy?

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder on Monday finally got around to explaining, sort of, the president's supposed justification for assassinating U.S. citizens abroad. "Due process" — the constitutionally enshrined right of Americans to basic legal protections, like not being killed by the CIA in your sleep, for instance — is not necessarily the same as "judicial process," he said. In other words, we are not actually guaranteed, as many had previously thought, the right to a fair trial before being judged guilty and terminated. Or, as Stephen Colbert parodied Tuesday night: "Due process just means there's a process that you do."

The administration simply wants us to trust that they will not abuse their newfound powers of execution. Bizarrely, the right wing is OK with this; or rather, judging from their public statements, they (the non-Ron Paul presidential candidates, at least) find the policy not quite extreme enough. Even more bizarrely: Democrats don't seem particularly stressed over it either.

Here we see how party loyalty distorts independent belief: If this was a Bush — or, God help us, a Romney, Santorum or Gingrich — trying to pull something like this, Dems would be frothing at the mouth. Instead, they cheer this erosion of individual liberty.

But Obama won't be president forever. U.S. politics are reactionary: Even if Obama wins re-election, we'll have a Republican executive soon enough. So while the GOP pushes the limits of extremism, let's not lose sight of extremity in the White House. The next tenant may not be quite as trustworthy.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

GET FED

Just the headlines:

- "Has Political Discourse Hit Rock Bottom?" **NYTIMES**
- "Mitt Romney's Zombie Problem" **MOTHER JONES**
- "Dennis Kucinich out: Left loses a combative, cheerful voice in Congress" **CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR**
- "Newt: Santorum isn't a 'slam dunk,' so I'm staying in" **POLITICO**
- "Obama's Kill Doctrine" **FOREIGN POLICY**
- "Romney Camp Spins Struggles With The Base As A General Election Plus" **BUZZFEED.COM**
- "OOPS! Romney Lets Slip An Uncomfortable Truth About His Tax Plan" **TPM**
- "Romney is Floundering, But His Opponents are Failing" **THE DAILY BEAST**

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Apple's new iPad has 4G, retina display

Apple's new tablet has better visuals, camera Is it enough in current climate of competition?

KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Apple CEO Tim Cook introduced the anticipated iPad update.

Apple Inc. took the wraps off a faster, 4G-equipped iPad starting at $629, hoping the latest version of its tablet can safeguard its dominance over rivals ranging from Amazon.com Inc. to Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd.

Chief Executive Tim Cook, presiding over his second major product launch since 2011's voice-enabled iPhone 4S, introduced the highly anticipated third iteration of the tablet — which is available for pre-orders from Wednesday and will hit store shelves March 16.

The high-end model of Apple's latest iPad will be capable of operating on a high-speed 4G Long-Term Evolution network. At speeds roughly 10 times faster than current 3G technology, that may help banish the sometimes-shaky video quality of older devices.

Analysts had anticipated many of the features Cook showed off yesterday, including a higher-definition "retina display" screen and a better camera.

Some had held out hope of an Apple surprise, recalling late CEO Steve Jobs and his now-iconic "one more thing" unveils at the very end of the proceedings. Others said the upgrades and tweaks to the iPad could only go so far in fending off hard-charging competition.

"While the hardware is notably enhanced ... there are still some areas of improvement that Apple needs to work on in order to stay ahead of its encroaching competitors," said Greenwich Consulting managing director Fred Huet. **REUTERS**

Out of pocket

- An updated version of the model with only Wi-Fi remains at $499.
- The most expensive 4G model, with 64 gigabytes of storage, will go for $829.
- The previous iPad 2 with 3G also sold for $629 to $829.
- The cheapest model of the previous-generation iPad 2 now retails at $399.

Romney camp tells rivals: You can't catch him

"As ... opponents attempt to ignore the basic principles of math, the only person's odds of winning they are increasing are President Obama's."
ROMNEY ADVISER RICH BEESON

Mitt Romney's campaign told his Republican presidential rivals yesterday they could not catch him and nudged them to quit the race even though he failed to deliver a knockout blow in the biggest round of nominating contests.

Romney won six of the 10 "Super Tuesday" states, including a narrow victory in Ohio's marquee matchup, expanding his lead in delegates and solidifying his frontrunner status in the race to find the Republican challenger to President Barack Obama in the November 6 election.

But rival Rick Santorum won three states and Newt Gingrich captured one, keeping their hopes alive and raising the chance the divisive Republican fight could drag on for months. Both vowed they are in the race for the long haul.

Romney's wins on Tuesday gave him more than 400 delegates, according to many media counts, more than doubling Santorum's second-place total and moving him closer to the 1,144 needed to clinch the nomination. **REUTERS**

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myentertainment

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

Magazine covers: Doin' the bump

As a fellow pregnant lady, I'm all for **Jessica Simpson** posing on the cover of Elle magazine while hoisting around a fetus. Yay for the miracle of life and all that. But why oh why did she have to do it naked? With the exception of **Demi Moore**'s famous 1991 nude pregnancy photo for Vanity Fair, which set the bar for pregnancy photo shoots, why have any of these stars shown off their naked bellies on magazine covers? It's as though these magazines — and starlets — need to flaunt the skin, just so you won't mistake them for being, well, fat. Because a woman with actual curves on a fashion magazine? What a crazy concept!

But perhaps I'm wrong and am just being a prude. What do you think of the omnipresent naked pregnant celebrity cover trend? Do you want more naked bump in your life or do you prefer your pregnant celebrities lookin' good — but with maybe a shirt on?

There's a girl in there!

In the Elle feature, Simpson confirmed that she and fiance **Eric Johnson** are expecting a baby girl. Still, given Johnson's athleticism, Simpson is worried her daughter won't be girlie enough. "I swear, I will croak if she asks me for a pair of Nikes instead of Christian Louboutins," she tells the magazine. "We're gonna have this athletic girl and I won't even be able to take her shopping, because all she's going to want is sports bras and Nikes."

The feed ...

Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Paris Hilton has moved on, Nicole Richie is trying to be helpful, Patton Oswalt is discovering new things about himself, and Albert Brooks doesn't quite understand Occupy Wall Street.

@ParisHilton
Don't judge me by my past, I don't live there anymore.

@nicolerichie
No grandma, I don't think you're ready for bikini season

@pattonoswalt
Just realized I know all the words to Whitney Houston's "How Will I Know?" Closest I'll ever come to being Jason Bourne.

@AlbertBrooks
If I were president I would allow poor people to drink 1% milk.

Talking points

Ferrell's makeup where the sun don't shine

Will Ferrell's role in his new film, "Casa de mi Padre," turned out to be quite revealing. "Someone had the either wonderful or horrible task of putting makeup on my ass," he tells Rolling Stone magazine. But baring all isn't something that bothers the "Saturday Night Live" alum. "This kind of thing is not a big deal to me," he explains. "In college, they had this thing where you'd run naked on fraternity row, and if anyone challenged me, I'd be happy to do it." Another college experience he was happy to do? Losing his virginity at age 21. "In my mind's eye, it seemed like the way it was supposed to happen," he says, admitting that his mom had assumed he'd lost it much earlier.

Hewitt loves her boobs, too

Jennifer Love Hewitt has something in common with her fans when it comes to appreciating certain parts of her anatomy. "It's horrible to say, but I like my boobs," the former "Ghost Whisperer" star tells Maxim magazine when asked what body part she is most proud of. "They've always served me well. They're good." Well, maybe they haven't served her that well recently, the currently single Hewitt admits: "It might sound so stupid, but guys do not hit on me," she says. "I'm not really sure why."

Snooki confirms the pregnancy rumors

"Jersey Shore" star **Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi** has taken to the cover of Us Weekly to announce what everyone already knew: that she's pregnant and engaged. "I have different priorities now," Polizzi says. "As long as I know I'm ready and [fiance **Jionni LaValle**] is ready." The reality star admits that discovery of her pregnancy — right after New Year's — caused a moment of panic. Her first thought? "'S—, I've been drinking,'" she says. "I was worried."

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Kanye and fans dazzle in Paris and more for your Thursday

1

2

3

1. Singer **Robin Thicke** visited "Hoppus on Music" at fuse Studios on Tuesday in New York City.

2. Actress **Elizabeth Olsen** attended the after-party for the "Silent House" premiere at Stone Rose Lounge on Tuesday in New York City.

3. Kim Kardashian showed up at **Kanye West**'s Ready-To-Wear Fall/Winter 2012 show as part of Paris Fashion Week at Halle Freyssinet on Tuesday.

4. Alicia Keys, Swizz Beatz, Cassie Ventura, Sean Combs and **Azealia Banks** also popped up at West's show.

5. Actress **Lily Collins** attended the celebration of her cover issue of NYLON Magazine's March issue hosted by Coach on Monday in Beverly Hills.

6. Rosario Dawson attended the Elie Saab Ready-To-Wear Fall/Winter 2012 show as part of Paris Fashion Week at Espace Ephemere Tuileries on Monday.

7. Sarah Jessica Parker arrived at the Louis Vuitton Ready-To-Wear Fall/Winter 2012 show as part of Paris Fashion Week on Wednesday.

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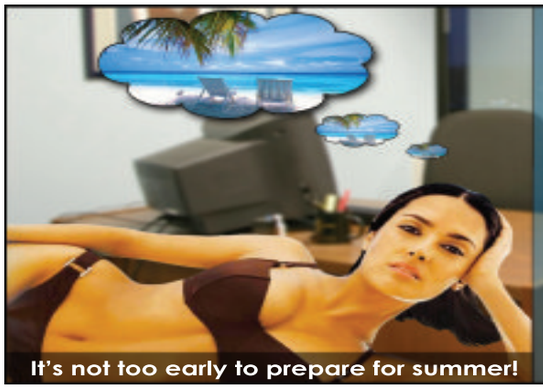

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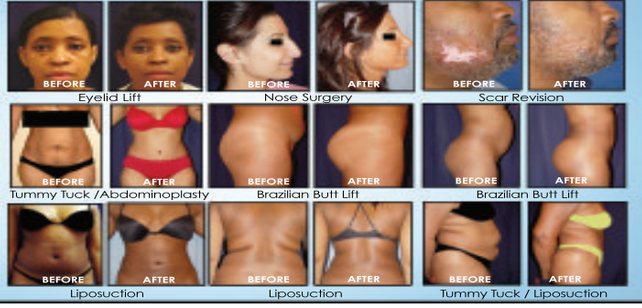

metro space invasion

mystyle

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Just when you thought there wasn't a capsule collection left that could get your heart racing, H&M releases a collaboration with Marni. So perfect for spring, the line — which launches today! — features the Italian brand's signature whimsical-yet-chic mix of prints and colors, loose silhouettes and fun, chunky jewelry. We know, we know: Your mind is blown. Call in sick, fake a dentist appointment, do what you have to do — just head to H&M now.

Our favorites

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Shoes, $100

TINA CHADHA
tina.chadha@metro.us

Paris Fashion Week review

Louis Vuitton

Remember the days when women and men used to dress up to travel by rail and air? No? Well, Marc Jacobs does, and chose to summon up a bygone era of luxury travel for his Louis Vuitton show. The elaborate set included a life-size train car and uniformed porters who strolled behind the models on the runway carrying their massive monogrammed, embossed and embellished bags. The clothes matched the set in theatricality; they were more directional than wearable and pushed the oversize proportion Jacobs started with his main line show in New York. The large, flamboyant hats were back — but slightly more refined. The same with the embroidered jackets, dresses and coats that the models wore layered over long skirts and wide, cropped pants. They looked like the Parisian cousins to the wildly dressed, desexualized eccentrics Jacobs unveiled in New York. Unconventional, yes. A hard sell, maybe. But don't be surprised to see Jacobs' use of outsize layers trickling down to the high street come next season. KENYA HUNT

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▶ *To My Wife Deanna Grierson, who I love beyond words can express. My past, present, and future would not have the value it has without you. Love Always, Your Husband, Sheermoy Grierson*

▶ ***Joe, my whole life has changed since you came in. Our laughs, walks, emails, VM's, chats, nights, wake up calls, hugs, kisses, lunch, L1 meetings and cards are the most precious gift life has given me since 12\9\2011. I love you so much. Hmmm.***

▶ *My one and only love, Ssangz- Everyday I thank god for sending me such a perfect partner to my life. Love Cat.*

Shrink wrap

DR. JANE GREER

HEALTH.METRO.US

Is flirting outside your relationship ever OK?

COURTESY OF TBS

▶ Krasinski's only got eyes for his wife ... and Conan ... and maybe you.

Conan O'Brien recently offered a solution for the lonely-hearted: Watch his video of celebrities flirting directly with viewers. From John Krasinski to Emmy Rossum to Fred Armisen, the stars looked at the camera and acted like they were meeting you in a bar and hoped to hook up. Some of those flirters might be looking for love, but what about John Krasinski, who is married? Do you think his wife minded? In this case, he may have just been playing a role, but people in relationships deal with this question all the time: Is flirting good or bad?

The answer is that it depends. For everyone, putting yourself out there with other people of the opposite sex and making smart conversation helps you feel desirable and confident. If, however, you are already in a relationship, then you want to make sure all that heightened sexual energy is stored up for your partner, who you will share it with later. If your relationship is solid and you feel you are being given enough one-on-one time, then a little flirting is OK. Sometimes watching your partner flirt can even give you a sense of pride.

But if it makes you feel threatened, then it might not be such a good thing. If the foundation of a relationship isn't strong, it can increase your feelings of doubt and mistrust. The person doing the flirting might feel good, but it might make the other partner feel insecure.

If that's the case, it's a good time to take stock and realize that rather than looking outward, you should focus your energy inward to work on strengthening your trust. You can do this by being affectionate, complimentary and expressing your love. If you still feel uncomfortable when your partner flirts with others, it can also help to set ground rules. For example, a little conversation might be OK — but if it goes beyond that and someone offers or asks for a phone number, the answer is no.

The goal is to make flirting work as a positive rather than a negative for your relationship.

— Relationship expert ***Dr. Jane Greer*** *is the creator of* ***"Shrink Wrap"*** *– national commentary on what we can learn from celebrity relationships – and host of* ***"Let's Talk Sex"*** *at* ***Healthylife.net.*** *Her book,* ***"What About Me? Stop Selfishness From Ruining Your Relationship,"*** *is available nationwide.*

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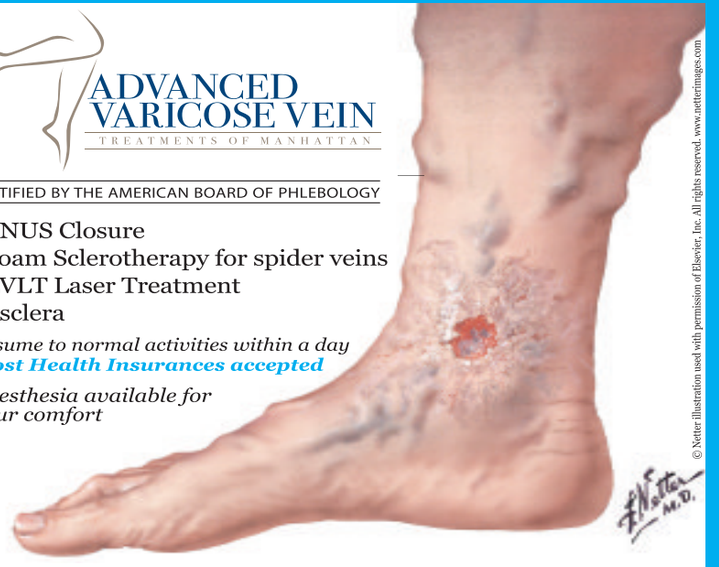

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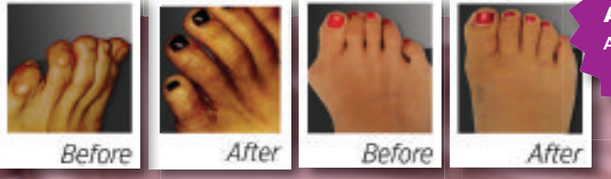

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Letters

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For Internet news, get the facts straight

RE: "ANONYMOUS LEADER 'WAS AN FBI INFORMER'": If you are going to report something related to the Internet, please get your facts straight. It was not Anonymous, it was Lulzsec, a separate hacking group with little affiliation to Anonymous. They operated for 50 days from April to June last year. It was only one leader for Lulzsec, and he ratted out the others.
ANDREW ALI, KEW GARDENS

"People should be able to express their opinion without having to be second-guessed"

RE: "A 'GROWING PAINS' REACTION": I am glad and proud that Kirk Cameron stood his ground and did not apologize for what he believes. For Christians, the Bible is the word of God, but God's word doesn't change to make certain people happy. In contrast with Tracy Morgan, he apologized after his remarks on the show, not because he was sorry but because of the pressure; he is another Limbaugh, if you ask me. People should be able to express their opinion without having to be second-guessed by people who disagree with them. **CARLOS SWABY, VIA E-MAIL**

Fanatical groups are utilizing a golden opportunity to force Rush Limbaugh off the airwaves, yet not a peep in the media about Rep. Maxine Waters' tirade at a recent Democratic shindig calling Republican contenders "demons" and telling Tea Partiers to "go straight to hell." Waters isn't the only liberal given a pass. Why is the media backing this campaign?
MARK HALPERN, VIA E-MAIL

Anyone who is angry about Bill Maher calling Palin the C-word has a right to be upset. Limbaugh only called Ms. Fluke a slut and prostitute. Bill Maher had no right referring to Palin as "competent."
ROBERT LA ROSA, WHITESTONE

Support of Israel not so clear cut

RE: SUPPORT OF ISRAEL PAYS DIVIDENDS": Please don't confuse "Israel bashing" with legitimate criticism of American and Israeli foreign policy in the region. Israel is free to make its own decisions just like the U.S. is free to disagree with those decisions. It's OK for friends to disagree. And if Israel decides they still want war, then they should go it alone. No U.S. troops, no U.S. dollars. **CARL HANSON, VIA E-MAIL**

Don't Iraq Iran! The tail should not wag the dog. With all the support we give Israel they should listen to us, not the other way around; otherwise we should stop the support. The United States cannot pin its future to Israel nor can it allow Israel to dictate or control our future.
CHRIS GOLDSMITH, VIA E-MAIL

In the '80s a war was being fought in Afganistan; the CIA chief stated: "All we can do is supply the freedom fighters with Russian made weapons." Some of those are known to have been sourced from Granada, but the statement quoted above was made months before that invasion. So Israel facilitated the rise of Osama Bin Laden. For that we should be thankful? **CHARLIE CHACE, VIA E-MAIL**

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** When you're permitted to establish your own agenda, you'll function at your best. It behooves you to steer clear of anyone who always makes demands on your time.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Adopting a negative attitude will only make disruptive matters worse than they already are. If you think everything is going against you, solutions won't be possible.
♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Getting involved in petty politics with someone who is adroit in that kind of game- playing is not a wise thing to do. He or she will do his or her best to make you look bad.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Whatever you do, don't let your ego or temper cause you to challenge someone who could have an influence over your work or career. It might be one match you can't win.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Getting in the last word shouldn't be important to you if it results in the possibility of jeopardizing a valued friendship. It would turn out to be a win that would mean a big loss.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Be on guard so that someone in trouble doesn't maneuver you into a position where you would be held accountable for his or her mistake or debt.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** If you ignore your own counsel and do something that goes against your better judgment, you could end up paying dearly for the consequences of this folly. Stay sharp and be cool.
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** It's not that you won't have adequate drive and ambition to handle everyday matters, it's more likely that you will be tempted to take on something that exceeds your limitations. Be honest about your abilities.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** It won't add any luster to your image if you deliberately do things that buck the will of the majority, just to prove your independence. All it will do is make you look selfish.
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Limit the discussion of family problems to the participants only. If you talk to others about private matters, you'll be inviting them to butt in and introduce added dissension.
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19**. Gauge your audience well so that you don't inadvertently introduce a topic about which you feel strongly to someone who holds an equally strong opposing opinion.
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** If you leave something you value lying about in plain sight, it's likely to tempt someone with sticky fingers. Be more careful with your prize possessions. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Across
1 Investigation
6 Do nothing
10 Feeling joyful
14 Less refined
15 Range in Asia
16 Tick off
17 Mercator's tome
18 Yukon, briefly
19 Revival shout
20 Bug repellent
21 Investigate (3 wds.)
23 Largest bird
25 Ankle opposites
26 Here, to Pierre
27 No-frills
29 Peaceful protest
32 Winter wear
33 Lightning by-product
36 Sunblock additive
37 City near Incheon
38 Hind's mate
39 To date
40 Lowered oneself
41 Alice's cat
42 Prepares food
43 Store-bought hair
44 Uncultivated
47 Drip catcher (2 wds.)
51 Hive product (2 wds.)
54 Speaker brand
55 Fouls up
56 Oscar's cousin
57 Sunny side
58 AAA suggestions
59 Shotgun caliber
60 A Muppet
61 Not hard
62 Cinch
63 Maestro Previn

Down
1 Madrid museum
2 Loan figures
3 Young screecher
4 Dante's ideal
5 Pause fillers
6 Gate fastener
7 Dairy-case buy
8 Seniors' PAC
9 Network protector
10 Potatoes au __
11 VIP wheels
12 Kayak user
13 Fender mishaps
21 __ -fi flick
22 Tall flower
24 I, to Fritz
27 Office bets
28 Unmannered one
29 The "merry month"
30 Malt beverage
31 Nonsense!
32 Calendar row
33 Fleming or McKellen
34 Mouths
35 Utmost degree
37 Deceptions (2 wds.)
38 Of noble family
40 __ & the Gang
41 Morse click
42 Swank
43 Technique
44 Jacques, in song
45 Major artery
46 Ancient harps
47 Censor
48 Heap
49 Moving around
50 Giggle (hyph.)
52 Poet's black
53 Milan money, once
57 Continent divider

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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4	7			3		5		
		3	2		4		8	
						9		

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

F	E	E	B	L	E		S	T	Y		F	I	L	M
A	N	O	R	A	K		P	R	E		O	H	I	O
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			B	E	D	D	I	N	G	P	L	A	N	T
A	C	M	E	S		U	N	D		H	O	R	S	E
L	A	I	D		T	N	T		M	A	W			
B	I	T		T	E	D		W	A	S	S	A	I	L
U	R	E		H	E	E		A	T	E		A	N	A
M	O	R	A	I	N	E		P	T	S		R	E	N
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O	P	A	L	S		O	A	T		A	U	N	T	Y
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E	L	I	A		I	C	E		O	R	I	O	L	E
N	O	M	S		D	A	N		V	E	N	D	O	R
S	T	A	T		A	R	T		A	E	G	E	A	N

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Are there any Doctors in the house?

▶ The Saw Doctors are, from left, Kevin Duffy, Eimhin Cradock, Davy Carton, Moran and Anthony Thistlewhaite.

RAY BURMISTON

Around this time of year, The Saw Doctors come over from Ireland to help Americans celebrate St. Patrick's Day But guitarist Leo Moran insists the band members are 'the most sober people in the building'

Rather cleverly, Irish rock vets The Saw Doctors start their winter tour in Florida. Could it be the allure of winter sun?

"We haven't gotten to Florida very often," says guitarist Leo Moran, "but, yes, it'll be nice to get a bit of sunshine at this time of year."

He considers his statement.

"Actually, when you're from over here," he says, speaking from Ireland, "that helps any time of the year."

The tour isn't timed just to sneak in some sunbathing though. The Saw Doctors hope to catch some St. Patrick's Day action.

"St. Patrick's Day is a license for an Irish man to go anywhere, you know," laughs Moran. "But we're always the most sober people in the building on St. Patrick's Day. That's the way it works for us."

Moran agrees with the (unproven, but almost certain) theory that Americans will whoop it up whatever the occasion.

"They're real celebrators. They're great party-throwers. When you're invited to a party in the States, you're really invited to a party. You can be sure it's going to be a proper shindig and no messing."

Credit indeed given to the Irish propensity for gaiety, whether it's a wedding or a wake.

"That's the thing here, you celebrate the person's life and you enjoy yourself. A cousin of mine said he'd rather go to a wake than a wedding. It's more fun, and you don't have to take a present."

LINDA LABAN
linda.laban@metro.us

If you go

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Who gets wilder on St. Paddy's Day, Irish or Americans?

"Irish America is a nation of its own," says Moran. "It's neither Irish nor American. It's its own thing and it's their big day. It's amazing what they make of it, really. It's hardly that big of a thing in Ireland. A bit of a parade down the town and then everybody goes to the pub afterwards. It's become a bit more [of a thing in] the last few years. But even so, it's nothing like the States."

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listings

ART

SCOPE Art Fair
Through March 11
Scope Pavilion
W. 57th St. and West Side Highway, $15-$20
Exhibitors from Brooklyn to St. Petersberg contribute installations at the 11th SCOPE Art Fair. We suggest taking a break from the Armory and crossing the street. Prepare to be wowed all over again by a staggering amount of contemporary art. **REGINA BRESLER**

SPRING/BREAK Art Show
Through March 11
Old School
233 Mott St., $5
From the folks who brought you School Nite, this multiday, nontraditional art fair fills the hallways and classrooms of a historic four-story schoolhouse, with projects by 23 curators fashioned around the concept of "Apocalist: A Brief History of The End." **MINDY BOND**

Independent 2012
Through March 11
Center 548
548 W. 22nd St., free
If you're looking for a low-cost art show option this weekend, head over to the former Dia Center for the Arts in Chelsea for this free, temporary exhibition devised by and for gallerists. **MB**

Fountain Art Fair
Through March 11
69th Regiment Armory
68 Lexington Ave.
$15 weekend pass/$10 day
When Fountain launched six years ago, the fair was wearing an Etsy-purchased dress among a sea of suits. This year's promises an array of avant-garde artwork and installations, special events, contemporary performance art, live music and a site-specific projection on the building's facade. **MB**

▶ "The Ballad of Genesis and Lady Jaye" is a documentary on artist Genesis Breyer P. Orridge and his wife and collaborator, Lady Jaye. It's centered around their body modifications.

ArtLiars
Saturday, 7 p.m.
Old School
233 Mott St., $5
Adding a fun, slightly subversive element to your Armory Arts Week, ArtLiars transform gallery/exhibition talks into performance art. An improv crew composed of writers, artists and performers, the company's goal is to find "an ism to crush" and challenge the "market-based art exchange." **LEAH TAYLOR**

Williamsburg Afterhours
Sat., 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Various Williamsburg galleries, free
Williamsburg and Greenpoint galleries keep their doors open late, the wine glasses full and the artwork in abundance for Williamsburg Afterhours. This annual event, now in its 10th year, celebrates Brooklyn's flourishing art world with live performances, mobile art installations and special events at galleries throughout the neighborhood. **SARA ROFFINO**

FILM

"The Ballad of Genesis and Lady Jaye"
Through March 14
Chelsea Clearview Cinema
260 W. 23rd St., $13.25
Filmed over seven years, this film depicts the efforts in intimate detail of legendary musician Genesis P. Orridge (Throbbing Gristle and Psychic TV) and artist Lady Jaye to become two parts of the same person — a process of body modification they called their Pandrogyne project. **ROZALIA JOVANOVIC**

MUSIC

Laurie Anderson: 'Delusion'
Friday and Saturday
Michael Schimmel Center for the Performing Arts
Pace University, $30-$65
"Delusion" showcases a handful of "short stories" that look to make sense of history's greatest truths and deceptions. A violinist and horn player provide a hypnotic backdrop while Anderson divulges details about her mother's death and more. **MACKENZIE WILSON**

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FIVE REASONS TO GO TO THE MOVIES

▶ Disney's sci-fi adventure "John Carter" opens this weekend.

1 'John Carter'
In Disney's adaptation of Edgar Rice Burroughs' novels, Taylor Kitsch plays a Civil War vet who can't catch a break: He ends up on Mars, gets taken prisoner by giants and then should probably go back and save the princess after he finally escapes.

2 'A Thousand Words'
Eddie Murphy angers a spiritual guru, inciting a curse — or a blessing, if that's your bag, hippie — that gives him only 1,000 words to speak before he dies.

3 'Silent House'
Supposedly based on a true story, this low-budget haunted house horror flick tells the story of a father and daughter who have been hired to restore an old cottage — but the weird noise coming from the top floor wasn't in the contract.

4 'Project X'
Shot hand-held by a cast of unknowns, this one — like every great high school film — is about nerds who conquer all by throwing a rager.

5 'Dr. Seuss' The Lorax'
Zac Efron, Danny DeVito, Taylor Swift and Ed Helms voice the central characters of beloved environmentalist children's story about the extinction of the "truffula trees."

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DRINK SKINNY

As visions of pina coladas begin to dance in our heads, we raid the shelves for some low-calorie, beach-friendly cocktails

Refine mixers

Booze is far from low-calorie, but even worse are the syrupy cocktail mixes and sugar-packed juices that go into a cocktail. Before you resign yourself to a life of rum-and-Diet Coke, check out the zero-calorie mixers from Refine. Available in Mojito, Margarita and Cosmo blends, they're made with all-natural ingredients and sweetened with Stevia. Are they healthy? Probably not. But neither is cranberry juice after it hits the pool with vodka. **$10, www.refinemixers.com**

Skinnygirl White Cranberry Cosmo

You've likely met the Skinnygirl Margarita by now. But it's time you got to know her hot younger sister, White Cranberry Cosmo. At 100 calories per serving — or a little over 600 per bottle, party girl — it's a satisfying, tart-and-tasty alternative to a frozen daiquiri disaster. Coming soon to the Skinnygirl shelf: a wine collection, cucumber-infused vodka and ready-to-serve pina coladas. **$15, www.skinnygirlcocktails.com**

Skinnygirl

Voli light vodkas

Voli's light vodkas — available in flavors such as lemon, espresso-vanilla and raspberry-cocoa— have between 25-40 percent fewer calories than the usual suspects. Which is great, but not a free pass to start spiking milkshakes. Go all the way and pair it with other low-cal ingredients for a cocktail such as the "Blushing Berry" (below), which packs a modest 130 calories. **$20, www.volispirits.com**

Toast smart with:

The Blushing Berry

What's in it:

- 1.5 oz. Raspberry-Cocoa Voli
- .5 oz. Raspberry liqueur
- Splash of diet cranberry juice

How to make it:
Combine ingredients in a cocktail shaker and pour into a rocks glass over ice. Garnish with a raspberry and lime twist before serving.

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Where does he go next?

Metro breaks down the Top 3 landing spots for Peyton Manning
Our odds on where he'll play in '12 Hint: It's not New York

New York Jets

If you listen to talk radio in New York City, you'd think Peyton Manning was already on his way to Gang Green.

He's not, but that doesn't keep fans dissatisfied with Mark Sanchez from pleading their case.

A healthy Manning is better than Sanchez, no question. But if you go with Manning, you can't fit both quarterbacks under the salary cap. You are giving up on Sanchez after three seasons for what could be Brett Favre redux.

The Jets have a bunch more pressing needs — a right tackle, a safety, a pass rusher and more.

And does Manning really want to compete for headlines with his brother? It seems unlikely.

Odds (out-of-10): 5

Arizona Cardinals

The Cardinals play in a weak division, indoors and with few media intrusions.

Former teammate Marshall Faulk has already chimed in, saying Manning won't want to play in the NFC, to keep the Manning vs. Manning Super Bowl a possibility. Considering how reluctant the family has been to embrace this previously, we don't know where that's coming from.

It's going to be hard to turn down throwing the ball to Larry Fitzgerald. Manning has never had such a big red zone target to throw to before.

They also have a 1,000-yard rusher and a developing defense, as they were seventh in the NFL in sacks last year.

Odds (out-of-10): 8

Miami Dolphins

All the stars in basketball and baseball are already taking their talents to South Beach. Why not Manning, too?

The Dolphins give Manning a chance to stay in the AFC, which he's familiar with, and play in a warm weather city. It also recalls warm feelings of his only Super Bowl victory.

He would have Brandon Marshall as a target and Reggie Bush showed impressive ability down the stretch last season.

One negative is that he'll have to go against Bill Belichick and Rex Ryan twice a year.

Odds (out-of-10): 7

MARK OSBORNE

Peyton Manning has instantly become the most prized free agent in history.

GETTY IMAGES

In the news

UConn wins

The Huskies continue to channel 2011 with a 71-67 OT win over West Virginia yesterday.

UConn may have already been in the NCAA tournament, depending on which pundit you listen to, but their second-round conference tournament win should clinch it.

The Huskies will play No. 1 seed Syracuse today at noon. The Orange beat them twice this season.

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NFL news

Lucky Colts?

Peyton Manning is officially done in Indy, giving way to imminent No. 1 pick **Andrew Luck**. The rookie is *not* a QB1 option right away. The Colts' offensive line is brutal, Luck has good but not great legs and some scouts don't believe he's a special passer.

SWINGING FOR THE FENCES

When searching for midround bats, we're not looking for those sturdy ceilings. We're on the hunt for Sistine Chapel kind of high ceilings.

The outfield and first base positions are so deep that we should be reaching for the stars. If we come up short, there are always options on waivers as the season moves along.

Blip on the radar

Jason Heyward burst onto the scene in 2010 with incredible promise. He crashed back to earth last year as he dealt with weight issues, shoulder problems and a plain old sophomore slump. The scary part is that Heyward is still only 22 and has lost 20 pounds. He's a strong bet to bounce back as he begins to enter his prime both mentally and physically.

Injury bounce-back

Kendrys Morales hasn't played since May 2010 thanks to a devastating ankle injury. Now he's nearing full strength and has Albert Pujols in his lineup. Remember that Morales swatted 34 homers while hitting .306 in 2009.

After the hype

Brandon Belt was one of the biggest hitting prospects in baseball heading into last season. He flopped, managing just nine homers and a .225 batting average in 187 big-league at-bats. Now he's back battling for a job in spring training after destroying minor league pitching. Watch Belt closely.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jason Heyward is coming off a typical sophomore slump.

Baseball injuries

Don't be the guy that doesn't understand the big injuries on draft day:

1

Ryan Howard, 1B, PHL — Coming off an Achilles tear and won't be ready until May at the very earliest. Way more risk than reward here.

2

Johan Santana, SP, NYM — Hasn't pitched since September 2010 due to shoulder issues. Anything more than 150 innings would be a surprise.

3

Carl Crawford, OF, BOS — Already having issues with his surgically-repaired wrist and is likely to miss Opening Day.

Top NBA pickups

Bismack Biyombo

▶ **C, Bobcats**
A raw yet dominant shot-blocker that is locked into a starting role and 30 minutes the rest of the way.

Ekpe Udoh

▶ **C, Warriors**
Andris Biedrins is out as the starting center and Udoh is in. He's similar to Biyombo, with a little better touch.

Kenneth Faried

▶ **PF, Nuggets**
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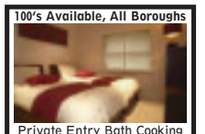
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